



Archaeology

Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#).

Send comments to: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2006, Workbook updated: February 2008.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Ph #: _____

1) Tell what archaeology is _____

and explain how it differs from anthropology, _____

geology, _____

paleontology, _____

and history. _____

2) Describe each of the following steps of the archaeological process:

site location, _____

site excavation, _____

artifact identification _____

and examination, _____

interpretation, _____

preservation, _____

and information sharing. _____

3) Describe at least two ways in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts.

1. _____

2. _____

Explain what relative dating is. _____

4) Do **TWO** of the following:

A) Learn about three archaeological sites located *outside* the United States.



Site 1: _____

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. _____

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. _____

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking _____

and how the information may be important for modern people. _____

Compare the relative ages of the sites you research. _____

Site 2: _____

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. _____

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. _____

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking _____

and how the information may be important for modern people. _____

Compare the relative ages of the sites you research. _____

Site 3: _____

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. _____

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. _____

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking _____

and how the information may be important for modern people. _____

Compare the relative ages of the sites you research. _____

B) Gather research on three archaeological sites that are *within* the United States.



Site 1: _____

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. _____

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. _____

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking _____

and how the information may be important for modern people. _____

Compare the relative ages of the sites. _____

Site 2: _____

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. _____

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. _____

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking _____

and how the information may be important for modern people. _____

Compare the relative ages of the sites. _____

Site 3: _____

Point out it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. _____

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at each site. _____

Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking _____

and how the information may be important for modern people. _____

Compare the relative ages of the sites. _____

C) Visit an archaeological site and gather research on it. Explain how the site was discovered. _____

Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site. _____

Explain how the information gained from the study of this site answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important for modern people. _____

Compare the age of this site with other sites you have researched. _____

5) Choose ONE of the sites you picked for Requirement 4 and give a short presentation about your findings to a Cub Scout pack, your Scout troop, your school class, or another group. _____

6) Do the following:

A) Explain why it is important to protect archaeological sites. _____

B) Explain what people should do if they think they have found an artifact. _____

C) Describe ways in which you can be a protector of the past. _____

7) Do ONE of the following:

A) Make a list of items you would like to include in a time capsule.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Discuss with your merit badge counselor what archaeologist a thousand years from now might learn from the contents of your capsule about you and the culture in which you live. _____

B) Make a list of the trash your family throws out during one week. _____

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Discuss with your counselor what archaeologists finding that trash a thousand years from now might learn from it about you and your family. _____

8) Do ONE of the following:

A) Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours helping to excavate and archaeological site.

B) Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours in an archaeological laboratory helping to prepare artifacts for analysis, storage, or display.

C) If you are unable to work in the field or in a laboratory under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, you may substitute a mock dig. To find out how to make a mock dig, talk with a professional archaeologist, trained avocational archaeologist, museum school instructor, junior high or high school science teacher, advisor from a local archaeology society, or other qualified instructor. Plan what you will bury in your artificial site to show use of your "site" during two time periods.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

9) Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or instructor, do ONE of the following: _____

A) Help prepare an archeological exhibit for display in a museum, visitor center, school, or other public area.

B) Use the methods of experimental archaeology to re-create an item or to practice a skill from the past. Write a brief report explaining the experiment and its results.

10) Do ONE of the following:

A) Research American Indians who live or once lived in your area. Find out about traditional lifeways, _____

_____ dwellings, _____

_____ clothing styles, _____

_____ arts and crafts, _____

and methods of food gathering, _____
preparation, _____
and storage. _____

Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people. _____

B) Research settlers or soldiers who were in your area at least 100 years ago. Find out about the houses or forts, _____
ways of life, _____
clothing styles, _____
arts and crafts, _____
and dietary habits _____

of the early settlers, farmers, ranchers, soldiers, or townspeople who once lived in the area where your community now stands.
Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people. _____

11) Identify three career opportunities in archaeology. _____

Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career. Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, _____

and explain why this profession might interest you. _____

Online Resources (Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)

- Merit Badge Workbooks: usscouts.org -or- meritbadge.org ► Merit Badge Books: www.scoutstuff.org
- Boy Scouts of America: <http://www.scouting.org/> ► [Requirements](#) ► [Intro to Merit Badges](#) ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)
- American Anthropological Association: <http://www.aaanet.org>
- Archaeological Conservancy: <http://www.americanarchaeology.com>
- Archaeological Institute of America: <http://www.archaeological.org>
- Center for American Archeology: <http://www.caa-archeology.org>
- Center for the Study of the First Americans, Texas A&M University: <http://www.centerfirstamericans.com>
- Earthwatch Institute: <http://www.earthwatch.org>
- National Association of State Archaeologists: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/nasa>
- National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers: <http://www.ncshpo.org>
- National Park Service: <http://www.cr.nps.gov>
- Society for American Archaeology: <http://www.saa.org>
- Society for Historical Archaeology: <http://www.sha.org>
- Southwestern Archaeology: <http://www.swanet.org/>
- UC Davis Extension: <http://www.extension.ucdavis.edu>
- Many more online resources: <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/resources/32215/mb/mb-ARCA.html>